

§ 51.34

(c) A draft finding of no significant impact will (1) be marked “Draft”, (2) contain the information specified in § 51.32, (3) be accompanied by or include a request for comments on the proposed action and on the draft finding within thirty (30) days, or such longer period as may be specified in the notice of the draft finding, and (4) be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as required by §§ 51.35 and 51.119.

(d) A draft finding will be distributed as provided in § 51.74(a). Additional copies will be made available in accordance with § 51.123.

(e) When a draft finding of no significant impact is issued for a proposed action, a final determination to prepare an environmental impact statement or a final finding of no significant impact for that action shall not be made until the last day of the public comment period has expired.

§ 51.34 Preparation of finding of no significant impact.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the finding of no significant impact will be prepared by the NRC staff director authorized to take the action.

(b) When a hearing is held on the proposed action under the regulations in subpart G of part 2 of this chapter or when the action can only be taken by the Commissioners acting as a collegial body, the appropriate NRC staff director will prepare a proposed finding of no significant impact which may be subject to modification as a result of review and decision as appropriate to the nature and scope of the proceeding. In such cases, the presiding officer, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board, or the Commission acting as a collegial body, as appropriate, will issue the final finding of no significant impact.

§ 51.35 Requirement to publish finding of no significant impact; limitation on Commission action.

(a) Whenever the Commission makes a draft or final finding of no significant impact on a proposed action, the finding will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as provided in § 51.119.

(b) Except as provided in § 51.13, the Commission shall not take the pro-

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posed action until after the final finding has been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS AND INFORMATION—REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO APPLICANTS AND PETITIONERS FOR RULEMAKING

GENERAL

§ 51.40 Consultation with NRC staff.

(a) A prospective applicant or petitioner for rulemaking is encouraged to confer with NRC staff as early as possible in its planning process before submitting environmental information or filing an environmental report.

(b) Requests for guidance or information on environmental matters may include inquiries relating to:

(1) Applicable NRC rules and regulations;

(2) Format, content and procedures for filing environmental reports and other environmental information, including the type and quantity of environmental information likely to be needed to address issues and concerns identified in the scoping process described in § 51.29 in a manner appropriate to their relative significance;

(3) Availability of relevant environmental studies and environmental information;

(4) Need for, appropriate level and scope of any environmental studies or information which the Commission may require to be submitted in connection with an application or petition for rulemaking;

(5) Public meetings with NRC staff.

(c) Questions concerning environmental matters should be addressed to the following NRC staff offices as appropriate:

(1) *Utilization facilities*: ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation or Director, Office of New Reactors, as appropriate, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-1270, e-mail RidsNrrOd@nrc.gov.

(2) *Production facilities*: ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001,